inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural consideration, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hilis and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(in) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which required protection from fellin? of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To Bet apart 4% of the geographic area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Delay in Finalisation of the Eighth Five Tear Plan

l&l. SHRl SURESH PACHOURI: "Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not beeni able to finalise the Eighth Five Year Plan so far, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, whether a number of suggestions made in the Chief Ministers* conference have delayed the finalisation of the draft plans for the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) when was the Eighth Five Year Plan planned oriignally to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMP. LEMENTATION (SHRl BHAGEY GOBARDHAN); (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan was due to start on 1-4-90. However, the Plan has not been finalised so far. The Approach to the Eighth Plan had to be drawn up afresh after the new Government came to power in December 1989. The Approach Was drafted and got endorsed by the National Development Council within a short time of six months in June, 1990. No suggestions made at the Chief Ministers' Conference have delayed the finalisation of the Plan.

New Employment Generation Strategy suggested by the Planning Commission

102. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleas ed to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended a new employment generation strategy during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this strategy has been accepted by the National Deve lopment Council; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEV GOBARDHAN); (a) to (c) The Eighth Plan Approach document proposes em. ployment as the central thrust of the Plan. The target will be to achieve on the average a 3 per cent annual rate of increase in employment over the next decade.

For this purpose, the Approach sug gests that substantial shifts in the pattern of investment in favour ot sectors and activities using less capi tal and more labour per unit of out put would be necessary. The proposed strategy emphasises creation of emp loyment opportunities on an increas ingly large scale in the normal pro cess of development. At the same time, it recognises the Meed for special programmes designed to offer guaranteed work to the needy as an interim meas, ure. The strategy proposed has (been endorsed by the National Development Council at its meeting to consider the Approach document on 18—19 June 1990,

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